# Sustainability Challenges from an Overseas COCOM Perspective

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# Agenda

- DOD Sustainability Guidance and Docs
- US European Command Overview
- Case studies: Energy and Water
  - Energy efficiency standards for new buildings in Europe
  - Water quality at an overseas military location
- Other Challenges
- Play it forward: Interoperability Impacts
- What can we affect?

# **DOD Sustainability Goals**

- DoD Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (USD(A&L), 2011)
  - Goal 1: Use of fossil fuels reduced
  - Goal 2: Water resources management improved
  - Goal 3: Greenhouse gas emissions from Scope 1 and 2 sources reduced 34% from FY2008 by FY2020
  - Goal 4: Greenhouse gas emissions from Scope 3 sources reduced 13.5% from FY2008 by FY2020
  - Goal 5: Solid waste minimized and optimally managed
  - Goal 6: The use and release of chemicals of environmental concern minimized
  - Goal 7: Sustainability practices become the norm
  - Goal 8: Sustainability built into DoD management systems

### **US EUCOM Overview**

- Mission: to conduct military operations, international military partnering, and interagency partnering to enhance transatlantic security and defend the United States forward.
- EUCOM's theater (area of responsibility for which it is responsible for planning and conducting US military missions) includes 51 independent countries that extend beyond Europe into the Caucuses and includes Israel.
  - 10.7 million square miles of land
  - 13 million square miles of ocean



### **US EUCOM Overview**

#### **Areas of Focus:**

- Ballistic Missile Defense
- Building Partnership Capacity
- Support to NATO/ISAF
- Energy Security
- Respond to Humanitarian Crisis
- Foster Interagency Cooperation
- Enhance Transatlantic Security

# U.S. Bases in Theater: 28 main operating bases

- Navy: 4
- Air Force: 8
- Army: 16
- Marines: 0

### In Theater: 218,424

- Navy: 6,403
- Air Force: 31,298
- Army: 43,157
- Marines: 1052
- Civilian: 29,598
- Military Dependents: 85,744

# Overarching Guidance on Operational Energy

- Operational Energy Strategy (DSD, May 2011)
  - Three-fold approach:
    - More Fight, Less Fuel: Reduce Demand for Energy in Military Operations
    - More Options, Less Risk: Expand and Secure Energy Supplies for Military Operations
    - More Capability, Less Cost: Build Energy Security into the Future Force

# Overarching Guidance on Operational Energy

- Operational Energy Strategy: Implementation Plan (SecDef, 6 Mar 2012)
  - Target 1: Measure Operational Energy Consumption (COCOM OCR)
  - Target 2: Improve Energy Performance and efficiency in Operations and Training (COCOM OCR)
  - Target 3: Promote Operational Energy Innovation
  - Target 4: Improve Operational Energy Security at Fixed Installations (COCOM OCR)
  - Target 5: Promote the Development of Alternative Fuels
  - Target 6: Incorporate Energy Security Considerations into Requirements and Acquisition
  - Target 7: Adapt Policy, Doctrine, Professional Military Education, and Combatant Command Activities (COCOM OPR)

# Energy Efficiency

### **New building requirements**

- Spain: all new or renovated buildings must integrate solar thermal energy to heat 30%-70% of domestic hot water (Mar 2006)
- Germany: a minimum of 14% of the energy for heating and hot water in new buildings must be from renewable power (Jan 2009)
- Italy: New buildings must use renewable energy sources such as solar panels to provide at least 50% of their daily hot water usage (Dec 2006)

# **US Building Requirements** in Host Nation

 LEED Silver Standard required in new federal construction starting FY12

Percent	Renewable Energy		
	Points		
2.5%	1		
7.5%	2		
12.5%	3		

# Resulting Challenges

- Unfavorable perception US non-attainment of host nation energy efficiency requirements could send a message of indifference when it comes to being good stewards of the host nation's environment
- Partner engagement more difficult to engage on climate change, energy security, or sustainable basing topics with partner nations when we may not be perceived as "walking the walk"
- Implementation of energy efficiency standards in new construction often comes with higher initial capital costs. New military construction (> \$750K) must be approved by Congress. In today's fiscal climate, it is more difficult to gain approval for projects with higher initial costs regardless of the ROI period.

# Overarching Guidance on Water Quality at Overseas Bases

- Overseas Environmental Baseline Guidance Document (OEBGD) provides criteria, standards, and management practices for environmental compliance at DoD installations overseas (DoD 4715.05-G, May 1, 2007)
  - provides criteria and management practices to be used by DoD Environmental Executive Agents (EEA) in determining Final Governing Standards (FGS)
  - establishes standards for environmental compliance at DoD controlled or operated installations in countries for which no FGS have been established
- Final Governing Standards (FGS) A comprehensive set of countryspecific substantive provisions, typically technical limitations on effluent, discharges, etc., or a specific management practice.

# Water Quality Case Study

- *June 2007*: Trash crisis raises concerns; Public Health Evaluation requested.
- *Nov 2007*: US and host nation authorities agree to work together; US granted permission to collect water samples.
- Jun 2008: Contaminated tap water found at off-base homes. Sampling results lead to first relocations of U.S. personnel living off-base.
- Jul 2008: **Bottled Water Advisory** issued for U.S. personnel living off-base.
- *Nov 2008*: **New Lease Suspension Zones** established based on collected data, and new health protective lease clauses implemented for off-base rentals.
- *Nov 2009*: Water Distribution Point installed on base to provide free drinking water to U.S. personnel living off base.





# Resulting Challenges

- Risk offending the host nation :
  - Differences in sampling criteria and process inadvertently challenges the host nation's procedures
  - subsequent relocation of families out of the neighborhoods may send the "not good enough for the US" message
  - New Lease Suspension Zones likely builds resentment among realtors and landlords
- US Impact:
  - Significant costs and inconvenience to the military and civilian Service members (relocations, bottled water, water distribution points)
  - Frustration from the environmental compliance side (resolving points of compliance questions, operator's training certificate requirements)

# Other Challenges

- Power requirements
- Wastewater
- Communications and reliability
- DoD material specs (e.g. concrete)
- Maintenance and lifecycle differences
- Technical skills for maintenance or operation
- AT/FP considerations and requirements for buildings and bases

- Perception
- Consumer patterns
- Return on Investment timelines
- Shrinking budgets
- US/DoD standards

# Interoperability Impacts

- Drinking water quality
  - Identifying issues at overseas bases improves combined basing during contingencies
  - Reduces secondary impacts such as bottled water shipment, waste, etc.
- Operational energy generation and consumption
  - Sustainable basing efforts often retroactive
  - Proven technologies CONUS or at forward bases allow first iteration implementation



Photo: US Army, DoD Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan

# What can we (collectively) affect?

Congressional approval of projects – probably not?

#### But...

- More robust identification of interoperability challenges
- Better selection of commercial off-the-shelf items
- Identifying and addressing compliance questions now
- Energy efficiency minimum standards in construction (e.g. motion sensors for lights)
- Cultural change consumer demand
- Education for senior leadership

# **QUESTIONS?**



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